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Tutunjian Announces CDBG Recipients

For Immediate Release

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(May 7, 2004- TROY) In accordance with Troy's five-year plan Mayor Harry Tutunjian announced Friday that the 2004-2005 recipients of Community Development Block Grant monies had been approved.

Tutunjian said he was happy with the 9-0 City Council approval of his plan Thursday night, which allocated \$3.2 million in federal money to areas such as City Projects, Economic Development, Public Improvements, and Public Service.

"Dividing up this money is no easy task, and it took countless hours of work, and effort from the City Council," Tutunjian said. "We have many people asking for money, and only so much to go around. I think we did a good job in finding which projects needed help the most, and making an effort to get them the money."

Among the City projects that were funded Thursday night include a Street Paving program for \$451,000, Vacant Building Demolition, Stabilization, and Securing for \$287,000, and the City's Code Enforcement and Planning Departments- totaling more than \$825,000.

Several amendments were made by the City Council, but for the most part the Legislative body approved most of Tutunjian's request for public service group funding. Included in that is \$30,000 to The Ark, \$15,000 to the Hispanic Youth Life Enrichment Program, \$15,000 to the Youth Advocacy Program run by the Salvation Army, and \$7,500 to the AME Zion Church After School Enrichment Program. All told, nearly \$300,000 was allocated to public service programs.

More than \$92,000 was approved in Emergency Shelter Grants, which is given to not-for-profits around Troy, including Unity House, Joseph's House, the Troy Area United Ministries, and the YWCA.

"We are heavily reliant on this money from the federal government for our own projects, such as street paving and building demolition, but we are also reliant because of all the groups in Troy in need of money," Tutunjian said. "Unfortunately, it seems as if there never is enough to go around. Many groups go without funding from CDBG because they do not qualify, or we do not have enough money."

The 2004-2005 CDBG Program is the final year of Troy's five-year plan, and Tutunjian will have to submit a new plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development later this year. He said Friday that he is intent on forming a focus group to help him decide where future monies should be spent. He warned that those used to receiving CDBG money should not rest on the laurels and believe the money will be there for 2005-2006.

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“We have an old City that is need of repair in some places,” Tutunjian said. “Not many doubt the beauty Troy possesses, but we need to spend money to ensure that the character of the City remains in place. We are in tough economic times, and the taxpayers of Troy give their hard earned money to allow the City to run on a day-to-day basis. My highest priority is to the taxpayers of Troy, and the future development of this great City.”